

Judiciary Committee

Public Hearing 3/21/2011

Testimony of William C. O'Brien, President, Connecticut Right to Life Corporation concerning HB 6599, the "Gender-bender" "Bathroom" bill.

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, members of the Judiciary Committee, I am here today to speak in opposition to HB 6599, AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION, which designates "gender identity or expression" as a protected class.

HB 6599 would make this definition law - "Gender identity or expression means a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth."

The law would prohibit discrimination based on gender identity by state agencies, cities and towns, by state contractors, private employers and labor organizations in hiring practices, in public accommodations, resorts or amusements, at golf clubs, by telephone and telecommunications providers, electric companies, by realtors, in housing, home financing and credit matters, and in much more.

The American Psychiatric Association recognizes identification with a non-biologically based gender as an identity disorder.

The American Psychiatric Association permits a diagnosis of *gender identity disorder* if the four diagnostic criteria in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text-Revised* (DSM-IV-TR) are met. The criteria are:

- Long-standing and strong identification with another gender
- Long-standing disquiet about the sex assigned or a sense of incongruity in the gender-assigned role of that sex
- The diagnosis is *not* made if the individual also has physical intersex characteristics.
- Significant clinical discomfort or impairment at work, social situations, or other important life areas.

If the four criteria are met, a diagnosis is made under ICD-9 code 302.85. There are other diagnostic codes for *gender identity disorder*.

The International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) list three diagnostic criteria:

Transsexualism (F64.0) has three criteria:

The desire to live and be accepted as a member of the opposite sex, usually

accompanied by the wish to make his or her body as congruent as possible with the preferred sex through surgery and hormone treatment
The transsexual identity has been present persistently for at least two years
The disorder is not a symptom of another mental disorder or a chromosomal abnormality

Uncertainty about gender identity which causes anxiety or stress is diagnosed as sexual maturation disorder.

Gender identity disorders are real. No doubt they are not easy to live with or to treat. We should all condemn any persecution or bullying of people who have these disorders. Those who have these disorders deserve compassion and psychiatric help.

But this bill would compel all of society to accept this disordered sexual behavior as normal.

I'm sure many women listening today are surprised to hear that men apparently are already using women's rest rooms through out the state. I think most women have an expectation of privacy, that there are no men present, when they use the ladies room, and apparently that is not the case.

Does the same thing occur in changing rooms in department and other clothing stores?

How will this law affect locker rooms - in the schools, and at the YMCA, YWCA or at other gyms, and in country clubs? It would seem to give a person the legal right to enter the locker room of their choice.

In the schools, not only could your child's male teacher come to work dressed as a women, so could your neighbor's high school-aged son. And if your neighbor's son comes dressed as a girl, does that mean he uses the girl's room, and the girl's locker room, to change from his gym clothes into a bra and blouse, or dress? Or does he put on the bra and blouse, or dress, in the boy's locker room? Either way, if a teacher or other student complains and takes action - will they be charged with discrimination? It would seem so.

No doubt this will make its way into public school sex education classes where children will be taught that selecting their gender identity is normal.

This bill ignores science, biology, medicine, and common sense.

Rather than require people with this sickness to conform to society's sexual norms, this bill would require society to conform to the sickness!

Though no one wants to discriminate against another person, when a person has a psychological illness, it is wrong to treat that person's behavior as normal. It is even more absurd to treat those who recognize the symptoms of the illness as though they were the

ones who are sick, or even as criminals!

Though the bill does have a religious exemption, it only applies to religious corporations, and related educational institutions, agencies and associations.

However, the religious exemption does not apply to individuals, their businesses, or their children in public schools!

The U.S. Department of State now allows a person to select which gender they want listed on their passport, which need not be the biological sex they were born with.

If this bill becomes law, would the DMV issue licenses based on a person's birth certificate, or their chosen gender? How will that affect law enforcement when they issue an all points bulletin to watch for a man or woman?

Would birth certificate be changed?

If a man chooses to be a women, can he save on his life insurance rates? What about auto insurance? Health insurance?

How will this affect medical care? When an EMT shows up on scene, will he be told the person is male or female? It may make a big difference in the way the EMTs go about making a diagnosis.

The Canadian Military now requires male soldiers who identify as women, and women soldiers who identify as men, to dress in the uniform of their "target" gender.

How will this bill affect the Connecticut national guard?

This is not a bill that affects only a few people with a disorder. Rather, it will create a disordered society.

Please vote "NO" on HB 6599, the gender bender "Bathroom" bill!!!

